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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Items 114 (b) and (c) of
the preliminary list*
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS; HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 23 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a facsimile letter dated 22 April 1997 from His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, First Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, addressed to you, regarding the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Cambodia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 114 (b) and (c) of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) SISOWATH Sirirath
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 22 April 1997 from the First Prime Minister of Cambodia addressed to the Secretary-General

The successful elections held under the sponsorship of the United Nations in 1993 have enabled Cambodia to set the foundations for democracy, development and peace. The most fundamental rights and freedoms that the Cambodian people are able to enjoy today are the most concrete and fruitful outcomes of the noble interventions of the United Nations in Cambodia. The people of Cambodia owe their most profound gratitude to the eminent nations and Members of the United Nations.

Despite the progress made by the Royal Government of Cambodia to guarantee full protection for the rights and freedoms of the people, democracy in Cambodia is young and still remains fragile. The recent incident in which a great number of innocent and peaceful demonstrators were killed and wounded is a clear sign that democracy in Cambodia is at great risk of a setback. Violence, violations of human rights and political intimidation are increasing and beginning to control the lives of the people of Cambodia.

Furthermore, as Cambodia is moving closer to the communal and legislative elections, it is imperative that the United Nations continue to maintain the presence of its Special Representative in Cambodia. As the mandate of Mr. Benny Widyono is soon ending, I wish respectfully to request you to present to the Royal Government a potential candidate who could be accepted to fill this most important and distinguished position. I very much welcome the nomination by the United Nations of a new Special Representative in Cambodia upon the expiration of Mr. Widyono's term of office.

A letter dated 7 April 1997 was sent to you and signed by Samdech Hun Sen, the Second Prime Minister, to support the continuation of Mr. Widyono in his current position in Cambodia after the expiration of his term of office. This request was made without my knowledge.

The upcoming elections in Cambodia can be free and fair only if one of the following interventions are made to monitor the full electoral process:

(a) The presence of United Nations observers;

(b) The presence of international observers under the coordination of the United Nations. The Royal Government will forward its official request to these two sources in the near future.

(Signed) NORODOM RANARIDDH